
On Monsignor Ligutti's Golden Jubilee

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the annexation votes in the unannexed area may stem from the lack of stable norms to guide the process of decision making.

A suburban area which does not foster community ties or provide satisfactory urban services is apt to survive in a state of precarious political equilibrium. While residents are not greatly attracted to the possibility of merger, they may be readily susceptible to the shifting pressures of expediency. A major increase in the tax rate, a decline in the quality of the street-paving program, or the emergence of an active leadership group can readily swing the balance toward annexation.

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On Monsignor Ligutti's Golden Jubilee

OUR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND for many, many years, the Right Rev. Monsignor Luigi G. Ligutti, celebrated on September 17, 1967 the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church. He returned to his former parish, the Church of the Assumption, in Granger, Iowa, to offer a solemn mass of thanksgiving.

Certainly he had occasion to thank God for the opportunities he has had to use his unique talents on behalf of the poor, the victims of social injustice, the families who make their living on the land—indeed, of all men. But all those who have been blessed by acquaintance with this saintly man and who have drawn inspiration from his example, guidance from his wisdom and courage from his leadership had occasion to thank God for Monsignor Ligutti's career too.

Monsignor Ligutti was born March 21, 1895 in the province of Udine, Italy. He came to the United States in 1912, enrolled at St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa, and after completing his preparatory studies he studied for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. There a dedicated professor of social ethics inspired him to devote his life to crusading for social justice.

He was ordained to the priesthood in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1917 and from 1918 to 1920 he was teacher of Latin, Greek and history at Dowling High School in Des Moines. His first pastorate was at Woodbine, Iowa. After serving there for six years, he was appointed in 1926 as pastor at Granger, Iowa.

When the great depression struck in 1929 it caused great unemployment among his parishioners, many of whom were miners. To help them help themselves, he organized in 1933 the Granger Homesteads, so that his families would have one foot on the land while keeping the other in

industry. The community proved a great success and Monsignor Ligutti became nationally known.

He had been active in the National Catholic Rural Life Conference since its founding and in 1937 he was elected president. In 1940 he was appointed its executive secretary. He built up the organization and helped to organize similar organizations in other countries. In 1949 he was appointed executive director and in the same year he was called to Rome to serve as the Official Permanent Observer of the Holy See with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. In 1958 he was named the conference's director for international affairs. He was made a prothonotary apostolic in 1965.

During the second Vatican Council Monsignor Ligutti served as peritus (expert) for three commissions, those on the apostolate of the laity, on the government of the dioceses and on schema 13.

On the day of his anniversary Pope Paul VI sent him a message:

"To our beloved son, Luigi G. Ligutti, our domestic prelate and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, on the joyous occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, we express our cordial felicitations and while publicly thanking him for his long years of dedicated service to the Holy See, we are happy to impart to him our apostolic benediction in pledge of abundant heavenly graces upon him personally and upon his ministry."

His has been an active life, in the papal diplomatic service, in promoting aid to farmers in many parts of the world, in organizing farmers to defend their interests in various parts of the world. But he has nevertheless found time for scholarship in the fields of rural life, land reform, cooperatives and agricultural development. He has taken part in the work of the *American Journal of Economics & Sociology* since its founding and has aided many another scholarly enterprise in the fields of sociology and rural life. He has published several books in these fields.

The Most Rev. Giovanni Benelli, acting Papal Secretary of State, in conveying to Monsignor Ligutti a signed photograph and chalice from the Holy Father, wrote:

"To this complimentary manifestation of sovereign kindness I am exceedingly pleased to join my warmest congratulations, in the hope of continuing to count for a long time on your efficient collaboration in problems that are so harrassing and at times so difficult."

So say we all. And when the author of the efficiency joins with it one of the most amiable and gracious personalities achieved by the Creator, we say it, as we are sure the Vatican officials do, with heartfelt fervor.

WILL LISSNER